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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Yutaka TANAKA et al.

Application No.: 09/897,930

Filed: July 5, 2001

For: PROCESSING APPARATUS FOR  
PROCESSING SAMPLE IN  
PREDETERMINED ATMOSPHERE

) Examiner: To be assigned

) Group Art Unit: 2812

) September 17, 2001

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

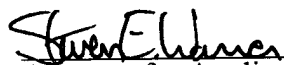
Japanese Patent Document No. 2-100311 is discussed on page 1 of the subject specification. This document corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,524,131, a copy of which is also enclosed.

Applicants request that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

No fee is believed due as this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the issuance of a first Office Action. However, if it is determined that a fee is due, such fee may be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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